

recurrently printed news items concerning the proposed "Administration Health Insurance" law. Little more than rumor, however, was forthcoming, until January 25, when Assembly Bill 2172 and its companion Senate Bill 1128 were submitted to the lower and upper chambers of the California Legislature. In their titles, the two bills state they relate "to a system of health insurance within the system of unemployment reserves," and, further, that they are acts "to establish a system of social insurance," and that these acts "shall be known and may be cited as the Social Insurance Act."

Article 11, Section 151, states that "The provisions of Articles 11 and 16 of this act establish and provide for a plan of compulsory health insurance *integrated* [italics by Editor] with the system of unemployment insurance, together with plans of voluntary health insurance for which provision is made herein."

It is not possible, at this time, to go into extended discussion of the two measures. They may be said, however, to have been put forward by the various California groups and advisors who have espoused compulsory health insurance as the cure-all for the large amount of so-called, inadequately cared-for illness—be the same imaginary or otherwise—which some of the lay adherents of the plan so often and so vociferously claim does exist.

Members of the Association who wish to acquaint themselves concerning the details of the proposed law should write to the California Supervisor of Documents, 214 State Capitol, Sacramento, requesting a copy of A. B. 2172 or of S. B. 1128. An equally interesting measure is Senator Hollister's proposed law (S. B. 551) which would provide for a medical service plan somewhat more in line with legislative drafts that have come out of Washington, D. C.

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Excerpts From the Bill Are Printed in This Issue.—For the information of readers of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, Article XV, "Organization of Medical Services," and Article XVI, "Administration," are given in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 211. These are worthy of perusal and careful thought.

At the present time all indications point to a legislative battle concerning these bills. Members of the Association, therefore, are urged to remain alert to the subject and to familiarize themselves with the issues at stake. And this, for the good and sufficient reason that the standards of scientific medicine and medical practice in the proper care of citizens and for the public health are all here vitally involved.

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Past Experience and Clear Thinking Worthy of Consideration.—It may not be amiss for an individual, or a group of individuals, to ponder on generous and altruistic abstractions; but precipitately to transform such theories into law might work untold havoc on the very persons whom the theoretical plans were aimed to help. The past record of achievement in public health advance-

ment, under evolutionary systems of medical practice, combined with the practical common sense and capacity recognizing, when illness actually does exist, that its real elimination needs primary attention to the causes rather than to the symptoms or end-results—these are elements that must continue to be taken into fundamental consideration by those who would ameliorate deficiencies of medical care. More than well-meaning phraseology is needed.

The enactment of a law, no matter how well-intentioned, may be of little avail if, in its administration, the ends desired are not attainable. In the last analysis, the values of things are judged by their end-results.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S 1939 ANNUAL SESSION—MAY 1-4

Del Monte Annual Session Almost at Hand.

With the sixty-eighth annual session of the California Medical Association distant but a brief two months, it may not be out of place to state that the Hotel Del Monte, the Association's next place of meeting, has been the scene of many notable gatherings of the past; and that its selection for the annual reunion practically always receives the hearty approval of members, as is evidenced by the large number who betake themselves to the Monterey Peninsula whenever that picturesque corner of the State is chosen as the place of reunion.

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Programs of Scientific Sections Have Been Completed.—The California Medical Association Committee on Scientific Work, in conference with the Section Secretaries, agreed upon the arrangement of the complete program at a meeting held in January, and the Section Secretaries have been busily engaged in securing the abstracts of papers to be printed in the Annual Session Supplement that will be a part of the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

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Hotel Reservations.—Hotel rates appeared on pages 137-138 of the February number. In this current issue, additional information may be found concerning auto courts.* Members who plan to be in attendance, therefore, are advised to make hotel reservations in advance. As a matter of fact, some far-sighted members wrote for their reservations within a week or two after the annual session of the past year.

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Scientific Exhibits and Films Requested.—The Committee on Scientific Work will welcome additional participants in the Scientific Exhibits and the Medical Films programs. All members who have such possible contributions, and who have not yet communicated with the Association Secretary in regard thereto, are urged to do so at once, indicating the nature of their exhibits, and space required; and concerning films, the titles and

* See page 213.

time required, together with any additional information likely to be needed.

The full program of the Annual Session will appear in a Supplement to the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

Constitutional Recess Is Over on March 6.—By March 6, the State Assemblymen and State Senators who, during the February constitutional recess, have been sojourning in their respective home districts, to confer with constituents concerning the 2,768 Assembly bills, sixty-eight Assembly constitutional amendments, sixteen Assembly concurrent resolutions and twenty-nine Assembly joint resolutions introduced into the Lower Chamber, and the 1,227 bills, twenty-four constitutional amendments, nine concurrent resolutions, and fourteen joint resolutions submitted to the Senate, will once more be in Sacramento, to convene and carry on their law-making labors, probably into May or June.

* * *

Former and Present Days: In Relation to New Laws.—The daily lives of physicians in the care of sick and injured persons are ordinarily far removed from the sphere of statute drafting. Indeed, in days gone by, legislatures came and went with little or no influence upon the professional, economic or social welfare of medical men, except, perhaps, in the matter of taxes, or minor amendments to public health matters or a medical practice act. Not so today, however!

* * *

California Medical Association's Committee on Public Policy and Legislation.—In recent years, the duty of keeping check on the mass of proposed laws submitted at each biennial session of the California Legislature has become little less than a very onerous task, the burden of which has largely fallen upon the shoulders of the Chairman of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento, and the coworkers his committee has found it necessary to draft into coöperative service.

Eternal vigilance is not only a motto for the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, but it must be constantly kept in view and practiced, because every one of the hundreds of bills must be carefully scrutinized, if undesirable inclusions, having implications to public health and medical practice activities, are to be detected.

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List of Bills Worthy of Perusal.—On page 213, in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, appears a classified list of the many Assembly and Senate bills in which members of the medical profession cannot have other than a natural and a live interest. Every member, consequently, should turn to that list and note for himself the magnitude of the labor given to some of the Association's officers, when those officials

are asked not only to discover improper provisions in new measures when they are presented in the January session, but to watch, each and all, for obnoxious additions or modifications of the proposed laws, as they pursue their tortuous and checkered progress in Assembly or Senate committees (where actual presence of the California Medical Association's representatives is not infrequently necessary to counteract the arguments of spokesmen for the opposition or specious interests).

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How Coöperation May Be Given.—The presentation of this subject, along the above lines, is intended to remind our members of the generous service rendered by certain Association officers, to the end that, when appeal for coöperation is made by the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, the aid requested may be cheerfully and promptly given.

Also, to again call the attention of all, on behalf of the Council, to the unwisdom of component county societies, or of individual members, in passing resolutions or espousing certain proposed statutes, and giving copies of such actions to the proponents of the submitted measures.

The Council of the Association and the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation are glad to know the views of component county societies and of members, but request that such expressions of opinion be forwarded through the Central Office of the California Medical Association. Otherwise, well-meant resolutions and commendation may be brought to the front, for the first time, in Assembly or Senate committee hearings, to become, at times, real sources of embarrassment to the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation. Surely, all must agree that the Committee on Public Policy has more than its share of exacting service, without adding unnecessarily to its labors.

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LIBRARY BEQUEST TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Walter Jarvis Barlow, M. D.—The late Dr. Walter Jarvis Barlow, who on September 4, 1937, passed on from his earthly labors, was ever occupied throughout a very busy professional life in Los Angeles in altruistic endeavor for his fellow citizens. Himself a victim of pulmonary disease, he originated and placed on a sound foundation the Barlow Sanatorium of Los Angeles; so named, by friends, as was the Barlow Medical Library, because his colleagues and coworkers felt that his name should be associated and perpetuated with the outstanding activities he had been instrumental not only in bringing into existence, but in firmly establishing. It was the Editor's privilege, as Faculty Secretary of the University of Southern California's College of Medicine, at a time when Doctor Barlow was Dean, to have been intimately associated with this colleague, who never tired in unostentatious efforts for both his fellows and the profession he so aptly represented. His was primarily a love of service, as was shown when the